

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 FRB-03 /035 W

----- 027270

R 280441Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2198

C O N F I D E N T I A L RANGOON 2971

FOR: EA/TB'

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, ECON, EAID, ELAR, BM

SUBJ: AID CONSULTATIVE GROUP -- GUB STEPS UP THE SALES PITCH

SUMMARY: THE HEADS OF MISSION FOR ALL POTENTIAL DONOR COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN INVITED TO A BRIEFING BY DPM U LWIN ON SEPTEMBER 3. AMBASSADOR PLANS TO ATTEND, LISTEN, AND AS NECESSARY, TO MAINTAIN DEPARTMENT'S POSITION. END SUMMARY.

1. ON AUGUST 25, THE EMBASSY RECEIVED COPY OF CIRCULAR FOREIGN OFFICE NOTE INVITING HEADS OF MISSION OF AUSTRALIAN, U.K., FRENCH, JAPANESE, FRG, CANADIAN, NEW ZEALAND, AND U.S. EMBASSIES TO A MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 3 AT WHICH U LWIN WILL DISCUSS THE NEXT FIVE-YEAR PLAN AND THE ROLE OF THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP. ON AUGUST 26, THE EMBASSY RECEIVED A DRAFT COPY

OF THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN.

2. AN IMF/IBRD MISSION IS IN TOWN GATHERING INFORMATION AND ASSISTING THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING IN REFINING THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN. IN AS MUCH AS U LWIN'S BRIEFING MAY VARY FROM THE DRAFT WE HAVE IN HAND, WE WILL WAIT UNTIL AFTER THE BRIEFING TO FORWARD A RESUME TO THE DEPARTMENT.

3. THE PLAN HAS SOME ENCOURAGING ASPECTS. IT GIVES PRIORITY TO AGRICULTURE AND BADLY NEEDED INFRASTRUCTURE

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PROJECTS (E.G., TRANSPORT). IN THREE SEPARATE INSTANCES,

IT INVOKES THE ROLE THAT CAN BE PLAYED BY DOMESTIC PRIVATE CAPITAL. IT PRESUMES AS ANNUAL LEVEL OF IMPORTS TWO AND ONE-HALF TIMES THE CURRENT LEVEL (THE IMF REPRESENTATIVE BELIEVES TWO TIME IS MORE REALISTIC). NOWHERE, HOWEVER, DOES THE PLA CONTAIN ANY REFERENCE TO PARTICIPATION BY PRIVATE FOREIGN CAPITAL.

4. THE IMF/IBRD TEAM IS DISPLAYING ITS CUSTOMARY DETERMINATION TO FIND SOMETHING ENCOURAGING IN THE VB'S ECONOMIC APPROACH. THEY SAY THE GUB HAS BEEN MORE FORTHCOMING IN PROVIDING INFORMATION AND STATISTICAL DATA THEN EVER BEFORE. THEY ARE ENCOURAGED BY THE DIRECTION, IF NOT THE SPEED, OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NEW TURNOVER TAX AND THE PRICING OF STATE PRODUCED COMMODITIES. THEY CLAIM THEY HAVE ASSURANCES THAT STATE ECONOMIC ENTERPRISES WILL GAIN TRUE AUTONOMY EVEN IN PRICING DECISIONS. THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN LIFTS A LARGE AMOUNT OF LANGUAGE FROM THE IBRD REPORT. NEITHER THE IBRD MISSION NOR WE, HOWEVER, CAN REALLY BE SURE THAT THIS IS A GENUINE CHANGE OF ORIENTATION.

5. THE AMBASSADOR PLANS TO ATTEND THE BRIEFING AND MALISTEN POLITELY WITHOUT OFFERING COMMENT. IF IT SEEMS NECESSARY, HOWEVER, HE WILL OF COURSE STAY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT'S POSITION AS OUTLINED IN STATE 186747 (AUGUST 1975) AND STATE 196613.

OSBORN

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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